

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/786,224 Confirmation No.: 2832
 First Named Inventor : Burkhard KUHLS
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 Examiner : Carlton Johnson
 Docket No. : 080437.53236US
 Title : Method for Providing Software to Be Used by a Control Unit of a Vehicle

REPLY AFTER FINAL

Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action dated December 19, 2011, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 4-9, and 12-19 remain pending and are rejected for anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0023223 to Schmidt et al. ("Schmidt"). This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

Prior to addressing this ground of rejection in detail, a brief summary of the present invention is provided. Exemplary embodiments of the present invention employ a variety of signatures, keys and certificates to control the exchange or alteration of software used by control units of a vehicle. Exemplary embodiments involve a trust center 101, software signature site 105, clearing code site 106 and control unit 115. The control unit 115 can store the following certificates:

1. A trust center certificate 116 generated using secret key 103 of trust center 101 and including public key 101 and signature 117 generated using secret key 103;
2. A clearing code site signature certificate 118 generated using public key 106 of clearing code site 104 and private key 103 of trust center 101;
3. A software signature certificate 120 generated using private

